MEMOIRS AND GALLANTRIES

OF A

Prince of the Blood of Abo.

PRICE TWO SHILLINGS.

Too high a Price by far, I swear
By Heaven & all assembled the

*77-932

The TRANSLATOR to the READER.

SOME late events in a neighbouring country, in which the hero of theſe Memoirs has had a ſhare, will render the following Hiſtory more intereſting at this particular period, and will we little doubt make almoſt every body deſirous of becoming acquainted with a man who has ſupported the public character of a Prince, while he diſgraced it, by meanneſs, incontinence, and every ſpecies of low debauchery. His manner of living, whilſt in England, was by no means calculated to impreſs the Britiſh nation with a very reſpectable idea of his generoſity;—and the Britiſh Ladies, when they have read his Memoirs, will rejoice, if their hearts never felt emotion in his preſence. The vaſt ſums

which his uncommon ſucceſs in betting at our horſe-races, and private gaming parties, and which he carried away with him to Abo, leaving none as tokens of his eſteem for our *arts* (the *liberal ones* I mean) for our manufactures, or for our manners, and cuſtoms, might have enabled him to gain ſome degree of eſteem for himſelf, without any prejudice to his finances—But if we except a few of the Cyprians of King's Place, and a few of the Nymph's from St. Giles's, no one taſted of his liberality.

The following Apology will appear to ſome, very probably to all our readers, to carry a delicate coat of irony through all its parts. Whether its original authors meant it as ſuch, we will not pretend to determine; every perſon who may read the book, will have ſagacity enough to penetrate their real deſign;

deſign; and to their wiſdom we will, as becomes us, leave the deciſion of ſo delicate a point:—for ourſelves we ſhall only ſay that, without ſticking ſervilely to the words of our text, we have endeavoured faithfully to convey the real ſenſe of the original; and we flatter ourſelves that we have been tolerably ſucceſsful.

IN the year one thouſand ſeven hundred and forty-ſeven, the Ducheſs of Snaelro forced into this world Lewis Philip Joſeph Duke of Sertrahc.

At that time his father lived in an ignominious ſtate of debauchery; but to him the praiſes and approbation of his fellow-citizens were not objects of ambition; every laudable purſuit was forced to hide its hated head, and yield the preference to that baſe voluptuouſneſs, which a depraved appetite ſuppoſes to conſiſt in the proſtituted embrace of the moſt illiterate Lais.

Too deeply plunged in the gulph of ſuch ſordid pleaſures, he had neither time nor inclination (perhaps he wanted capacity) to make himſelf acquainted with the nature of public buſineſs: nor was he leſs inactive in the care of his private affairs. With this inaptitude, he neglected every opportunity of doing the good which was in his power; but, by prudently avoiding any evil, and cautiouſly eluding the expreſſion of his ſentiments, he obtained the title of *a good prince*.

Indefatigable high prieſt of that Venus, whoſe favours are for ſale, he winked at the diſorders of the wife of his boſom; and never ſeemed even to ſuſpect that ſhe was faithleſs to his bed.

Yet thoſe perſons who delight in ſcandal, and who cannot bear that unſullied virtue ſhould live quietly in their neighbourhood, have preſumed to aſſert, that the Ducheſs of Snaelro was in no degree inferior to the noted

noted Meſſalina of ancient Rome; nor have they heſitated to publiſh, that the French Princeſs lived in open adultery with the Count of Cangilop, who, of human attributes, poſſeſſed no more than the outward form, to which was annexed the main enſign of a Jack-aſs—*not that of the head*—to this the calumniators add, that the lady conſidering this appendix far from equal to her *capacity*, found it neceſſary to employ, as a ſubſtitute to the Count, one of her own coachmen, by name Lefranc.

To this connection with Lefranc, the abettors of calumny daringly attribute the exiſtence of the puiſſant Prince the Duke of Sertrahc: but we, who know ourſelves to be more charitable, will aſſign her grace's little experiments on her Phæton, to more praiſeworthy motives; nor will we doubt but that our readers will ſay with us, that the Ducheſs's deſign was to make experiments in natural philoſophy on the body of her coachman: nor can we heſitate to think but that ſhe firſt

ſet an example to women of quality, which has been ſo extenſively imitated, both in France and England ſince that time, and to which "many a *ſervant* owes the happy moments he ſpends in this world."

To prove their aſſertion, the profeſſors of ſcandal ſay, that the Duke has, ſince then, given inconteſtible proofs of his pedigree by his fondneſs for ſitting on the coachbox, and driving his own horſes, whilſt his ſervants, with the proſtitutes whom he picked up in the ſtreets, rode triumphant in the carriage, and laughed at the degeneracy of their noble driver.

But many reaſons militate glorioufly againſt this argument. Firſt, it is a point of law eſtabliſhed, that no other ſhall be the father than he to whom a lawful marriage ſhall have given the rights of a huſband. The lawful huſband of the Ducheſs was the Duke of Snaelro: their marriage had been contracted with all the formalities required

by

by the law: even religion had given ſanction to it, *as far as in it lay*. Hence it follows, that the Duke of Snaelro is undoubtedly the father of the Duke of Sertrahc—and hence it naturally follows, that the latter cannot be the ſon of athletic Lefranc.

Againſt that argument which pleads a ſimilarity of diſpoſition, we will ſay, that the Duke of Sertrahc reſembles Leſranc only in the one particular of coach driving; but did he not purſue the footſteps of the Duke of Snaelro with equal, if not ſuperior, fidelity, in his taſte for proſtitutes of the loweſt claſs—a taſte which, to this day, exiſts in full force and vigour: but to ſilence all cavillers againſt his legitimacy at once, we need only to have recourſe to the public regiſtry of his baptiſm, and to his peaceable poſſeſſion of his titles, rights, and revenues*.

We ſhall not treſpaſs upon the patience

* This was publiſhed at Paris before the famous decree, which brought all Frenchmen to an equality.

of our readers by any detail of the years of his childhood, as they muſt ſuppoſe them to have paſſed in the ſame manner as thoſe of almoſt all great, that is to ſay rich men's children do—careſſed, flattered, humoured, praiſed and idolized, whilſt the women who hoped for his money, the tutors and ſervants who aimed at his protection, outrivalled each other in the moſt fulſome and abject attendance, not to his morals and learning, but to his caprices and paſſions: but whether they had more hand in forming the bias of his inclinations, than nature, will eaſily appear in the following authentic Memoirs.—

On his firſt entrance into the world, thoſe who hoped to gain his favour, cried out that he was a prodigious fine boy, and muſt make a great man; whilſt, on the contrary, thoſe who had no ſiniſter end in view, and whoſe pretenſions to prophetic inſpiration, were as well founded, exclaimed that he was like the mountain in labour, which, after promiſing wonders, would be delivered only of meanneſs

neſs and immendicity.—Thus difficult is it to pleaſe all people!—

At the age of ſixteen, the young Duke felt the warm ſolicitations of that paſſion to which he afterwards gave himſelf up without any reſtraint. The young deſire was no ſooner known, than perſons of both ſexes vied with each other, who ſhould have both the honour and the emolument of introducing him into the temple of the goddeſs: but whether from principles of moral rectitude, as *we* ſuppoſe, or as others will inſinuate, from the more ignoble motive of avarice, he choſe to preſent the firſt fruits of his impulſe, to one of thoſe wretches whom money will bring, with a maſk of joy, and a corroded heart, into the arms of age and deformity.

It appears ſingular indeed, that a youth endowed with every qualification neceſſary for the purpoſe of gaining the firſt rank in the court of that pure and celeſtial Venus from whoſe influence proceed thoſe elegant

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and heart-ſoothing ſenſations and ſympathies, by which the affections of two perſons of different ſexes are mutually entwined, and on which are built thoſe exquiſite tranſports, than which the ſoul of man is incapable of any thing higher in this ſublunary world; it appears ſingular, I ſay, that ſuch a youth ſhould give the preference of his earlieſt homage to that impudent ſtimulative jade, Venus, who, though ſhe ſcatters fictitious flowers in the paths of her votaries, yet dreads the face of day, and ſeeks the thickeſt ſhades of night, and the deepeſt receſſes of the moſt dreary manſions, to conceal the turpitude of her rites.—That ſhameleſs Venus, whoſe prieſts and prieſteſſes are forced to have recourſe to the degrading aſſiſtance of intemperate drinking, to rouſe the ſmothered ſpark, or quaſh the cries of remorſe.—But who can reſiſt the ſtrong impulſes of nature and conſcience?—his father and mother were addicted to the latter Venus—and the ſin of ſeduction was to his tender mind of too black a die.

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The prieſteſs who had the honour of initiating him into the myſteries of the goddeſs, and of introducing him into the innermoſt fane of her proſtituted temple, was the noted Dechamps, the avowed miſtreſs of the Duke of Snaelro. None could be fitter for the purpoſe of explaining all that is abſtracted in the ſcience of the baſeſt proſtitution, than this lady, as none could poſſibly enjoy a more extenſive practice: none was better ſkilled in the infinitely various evolutions and contortions thought neceſſary to rouſe the torpid feelings of exhauſted debauchery —or to give to inexperience that decided predilection for infamous pleaſure, which fixes the inclination unalterably—and to implant in the young mind that diſguſt for the delicate endearments, which neceſſarily flow from an union of hearts.

How unjuſtly is the Duke of Sertrahc accuſed, on this occaſion, with having committed a frightful inceſt! He might have been ignorant of his reputed father's connection

tion with that courteſan—nor can *ſhe* be juſtly condemned of having voluntarily contributed to it, as ſhe was *not* ignorant of the doubts which ſubſiſted concerning the identity of his father—ſome declaring him to be the ſon of the Duke of Snaelro; others imputing his exiſtence to the Count of Cangilop; and a third claſs publiſhing, with confidence, that he owed his birth to the coachman.

Hitherto we flatter ourſelves with having ſufficiently refuted the calumnies iſſued againſt the birth of the Duke of Sertrahc; and that our readers will allow it was impoſſible for him to entertain more generous inclinations in the purſuits of pleaſure with the other ſex—nor will they be ſurprized from what they have ſeen, that he ſhould abandon himſelf, without reſerve, to thoſe degrading joys, until by a conſtant and invariable adherence to that line of conduct, he in the end experienced the allegorical transformation of the companions of Ulyſſes, on their landing in the Iſland of Circe—a line of conduct the

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more excuſeable, as it was adopted at that early period of life when the blood is in a ſtate of violent fermentation, and the underſtanding labouring in the trammels of immaturity. And yet farther, when it is conſidered that he held from his father a ſtrong conſtitution, and that his mother ſhewed a firm determination rather to ſacrifice her life to the purſuit of pleaſure, than to waſte her days in a baſe inactivity and a tireſome monotony.

But who can without indignation, hear the next aſperſion which the enemies of the Duke of Sertrahc falſely and daringly caſt on the character of that princely nobleman. Read, admire, and condemn.

" It was not enough that the heir of the houſe of Snaelro ſhould ſink into the moſt diſhonourable and vileſt ſtate of infamous debauchery; he muſt, from a principle of the moſt deteſtable avarice, drag along with him, into the abyſs of his diſorderly life, the

the Prince of Cſebmal, the unfortunate and only ſon of the Duke of Erveihtnep. To the effervescence of his ſenſes, has the death of this young Prince been attributed—and to his exceſſive complaiſance for the opinions of the Duke of Sertrahc:—but it ſprang from a deeper ſource, which we will diſcover. For ſome time the Duke of Sertrahc had been forming the deſign of eſpouſing the only daughter of the Duke of Erveihtnep; by which means he entertained a diſtant hope of centring in himſelf the vaſt poſſeſſions of that family, and of obtaining the place of Grand Admiral—The Prince of Cſebmal was an inſurmountable obſtacle to the gratification of this wiſh, and hence proceeded his untimely fall."

It is true, that the Duke of Sertrahc did obtain the hand of the lady; it is equally true that, could he reſiſt the impulſe which he held by lineal deſcent from his father and mother, of purſuing proſtituted pleaſures, he might be as happy in the

the married ſtate as wit, beauty, underſtanding, and virtue, can make a man in this world: but who will not plainly ſee the venomous ſting of malicious defamation in this charge? who can penetrate into the ſecret receſſes of a man's mind? and would it not be more generous to ſay that theſe two princes, being of equal age, and nearly of fortune, had likewiſe a ſimilarity of inclinations, which led them to proſecute their ſchemes of pleaſures in the moſt infamous retreats of proſtitution, in the arms of the moſt abandoned daughters of unchaſtity.

The Duke of Erveihtnep, who had not ſpared either pains nor expence, in giving to his ſon the beſt education, had likewiſe, in the deluſive hope of perpetuating his name, obtained for him, as a wife, a moſt amiable young lady: to whom the inconſiderate youth ſoon communicated that infamous diſorder, which is an almoſt unavoidable conſequence of indulging in promiſcuous amours. By timely application ſhe fortunately eſcaped

the threatened doom; whilſt he, relying too much on his conſtitution, neglected the neceſſary remedies, until they could no longer produce a ſalutary effect.

Devoured by the flame of an ignoble ambition, it is aſſerted that the Duke of Sertrahc, fearful leſt the ſkill of medical men ſhould diſappoint his ſanguine hopes, took advantage of the debilitated ſtate in which he ſaw his brother-in-law, and, in a pretended quarrel, ſtruck him in ſuch a manner, as rendered a cure impoſſible. This we ſuppoſe no body will believe; however, certain it is that the Prince expired, leaving his ſiſter ſole inheritor of his father's immenſe fortunes.

At this period, the eyes of all France were turned to the Duke of Sertrahc—all thoſe who had predicted concerning him, thought they ſaw their prognoſtics fulfilled; his conduct, for a ſhort period after marriage, ſatisfied the one that they were right: but, in a little time, the irreſiſtible force of nature uniting

uniting with that of habit, broke through all the barriers of decency, and (ſay his aſperſers) he plunged into more infamous debaucheries than before. A taſte ſo depraved as his was, could not reliſh the chaſte delights of a lawful bed; the participations of a virtuous woman in modeſt pleaſures, could not ſatisfy the vitiated appetite, too long accuſtomed to the indecorous incentives of impudicity—nor his Serene Highneſs find, in the higher ranks of life, any young man, married or unmarried, who could be prevailed upon to enter into the ſpirit of proſtituted luſt. Hence the Duke aſſociated, in his nocturnal excurſions, thoſe of his own ſervants; who, upon ſtrict examination and ocular demonſtration, were found to underſtand the refinements of lubricity in its moſt deſpicable ſtate.

With them he prowled through the ſtreets of Paris—with them he viſited every public and private receptacle for fallen virtue—them he made his inſtruments to bilk the

unfortunate wretches whom he made ſubſervient to his own and his ſervants infamous purpoſes; whilſt he triumphed in his own perſonal ſafety, and particularly in the accretion of wealth, which theſe mean practices brought him--and gloried in remaining unknown as the actor of ſuch infamous ſcenes.

But, as if this were not ſufficient to render him utterly contemptible, his Serene Highneſs, about this time, thought it expedient, the better to purſue his inclinations, to erect, in one of the Fauxbourgs of the city, a temple, which he ſolemnly dedicated to the goddeſs of Proſtitution, and where he took care, from time to time, to repreſent the vileſt ſcenes of the moſt deſpicable debauchery.

In painting, there are certain nudities which, by their colouring and ſimplicity, are calculated to rouſe the drowſy torpor of ſatiated deſire—he who exhibits them deſerves a curſe—but if an exiſting reality can, by repreſentation,

preſentation, in expreſſion, or attitude, create a diſguſt of any vice whatever, it becomes not only ſalutary, but it is an abſolute duty in him who knows or poſſeſſes it, to make it known to the public: it is in compliance with this duty that we find ourſelves bound to lay open ſome of the ſcenes which have been from time to time, acted on this theatre of immundicity.

Here, as in all other caſes where it may be found poſſible, we will leave it to our readers to make their own comments: as faithful hiſtorians, we will report facts; where we can, we will extenuate: but, in the preſent caſe, we muſt acknowledge our ſorrow that the very nature of the ſubject impoſes a painful ſilence on us—as we cannot pretend that the morals or conduct of the Duke of Sertrahc deſerve either to be admired or imitated—yet we would advance a plea in his favour, if admiſſible, which is, that he is certainly neither the firſt nor the laſt who has yielded to ſuch weakneſſes—how many men

diſtinguiſhed by their birth, fortune, and talents have fallen into the moſt enormous exceſſes, and, like ſwine, have wallowed in the deepeſt ſinks of filth and impurity, whilſt, at the ſame time, they were qualified to revel in the enjoyment of the moſt delicate and delicious pleaſures.

In this temple, when every other ſource of pleaſure fails, the Duke of Sertrahc aſſembles a certain number of the moſt inſignificant and abandoned proſtitutes, that his emiſſaries can pick up in the ſtreets of his vicinity. To gain admittance, they muſt, in the firſt place, give inconteſtible proofs that every idea of decency is baniſhed from their minds; and none will be choſen to participate of the ceremonies performed in this infernal fane but thoſe who, for their crimes or their diſorders, have at leaſt been twice confined in the hoſpitals and houſes of correction, made and provided for that purpoſe.

With theſe qualifications, they are introduced

duced into the receſs, where, in the ſcorching heats of ſummer, to enable them to enjoy the refreſhing breezes that were artfully invited to this habitation, every perſon of the company was bound, by previous ſtipulation, to remove every obſtacle that could prevent the gentle zephyrs from entering into contact with all the parts of their bodies, even the attendants, (as after the aggregation no body was to be admitted within the gates of the temple) were obliged to comply with the regulation. In this ſtate of pure nature were women of different ſizes, complexions, and proportions, ſeen to ramble, without any fixed object, but in obedience to the preſent impulſe of unaccountable caprice, through the gardens and apartments. Some, with prominent boſoms, conſcious of irreſiſtible attraction, ſtrutting with fulſome pride, and endeavouring, by laſcivious leers and attitudes, to excite deſire in the breaſt of apathy: others in whom thoſe provoking protuberances had been rendered inattractive by age and *experience*, endeavouring to conceal the defective

defective part, and excite attention to such as they thought yet capable of gaining them preference.

With these were mingled a set of exhausted debauchees, who, by constantly frequenting the stews, required uncommon exertions to awake the dormant inclination; their sizes, shapes, and dimensions, as various as those of the Phrynes and Thais's, whom they pursued from place to place. At length to the half famished groupe, is served up a plentiful repast of the *cheapest* viands, which they greedily devour, exulting in the possession of what they had long been strangers to—a copious meal, and which must very probably serve them a long while.

During this enchanting feast, as often as the keenness of appetite will allow of interruption, the most lascivious expressions are bandied about, and both males and females vie with each other in enhancing, on the corruption of language, to the most infamous purpose.

purpoſe. Wine and brandy are called in to give a new ſpring to the imagination, and a new flippancy to the tongue.

At length, the tables being removed, the wanton bacchanals form irregular dances, running, without rule and law, wherever fancy drives; and exhibiting the moſt unnatural poſtures, and contortions, that depraved nature can ſuggeſt;—when, inflamed by theſe united provocatives, they fly to the ſeveral ſeats to which cuſtom has beſt reconciled them. Some throw themſelves acroſs narrow ſtools, where their extremities hang unſupported to the ground, and there impatiently wait untill the ſervants, authorized by their maſter's nod, approach to fulfil their wiſhes.

Now the delighted Duke, marching along the room with ſolemn ſtride, beholds with careful eye the different exertions of the ſeveral performers—he ſtimulates them by praiſes or reproaches—he examines, himſelf, the effects of their inflexions—and a trifling

reward

reward is given to him or her whoſe proweſs has exceeded that of the reſt.

In winter, large fires are lighted in the feſtive hall, where, after the gala, they haſten to their ſeveral amuſements. On one ſide is a ſhameleſs girl of fifteen, already hardened and experienced in the moſt infamous arcana of the ſcience, ſeated on her heels with her knees wide extended in the poſture of a ſhe-monkey, tickling herſelf, making the vaulted roof reſound with loud burſts of laughter, and procuring to herſelf, without foreign aid, a gratification which ſeemed compleat.

Not far from her, two wretches of her ſex, unendowed with even a ſhadow of modeſty, folded in each other's arms, imitate the tranſports of two paſſionate lovers of different ſexes —imprint on each other's lips the moſt ſeemingly burning kiſſes, and proceeding to yet greater lengths, exhauſt and inſult nature— to the infinite delight of their admiring entertainer,

tertainer, who loſes the ſight of no part of their Cytherean manœuvres.

Three wenches, extended on a ſettee, waſte themſelves in efforts to produce a pleaſure to which they effect a ſenſibility which nature denies. The middle one ſends forth thoſe turbulent murmurs which are, in general, conſidered as the reſult of the moſt exquiſite ſenſations—ſo violent are her pretended emotions, that, in a little time, ſhe overturns her aſſiſtants, lays them ſprawling on the floor, and remains on the ſeat of buſineſs; a ſeat which we ſhall not *ſtain* our paper to deſcribe.

The two who had loſt their places on the ſettee, unwilling to venture again in ſociety with their former companion, reſolve to make themſelves amends by proving their own ſkill in the eſſence of infamy: for this purpoſe they approach each other on the carpet; and after reſolving themſelves into a ſuitable

ſuitable poſition, uſe the organ of ſpeech to tickle that of delight.

It will appear evident to every reader, that our modeſt pen would never have given expreſſion to ſuch circumſtances, were it not our deſign to defend the Duke againſt the imputation of incontinence: but when we aſſure thoſe who will honour us with an impartial reading of theſe our Memoirs, that his *moſt* Serene Highneſs was no more than a ſpectator of theſe tranſactions, and that he groaned (which we cannot doubt) with ſpiritual anguiſh at the depravity of poor fallen human nature, he *muſt* be held guiltleſs in all men's eyes.

To compenſate for theſe trifling indecencies, the Duke of Sertrahc would frequently have ſome of the moſt eminent (for their irregularities) of the actors and actreſſes of the opera, with dancers, and ſo forth, to act regular pieces of the ſame nature as the above,

bove, on a little theatre * which he had contrived in this temple, which was nicknamed "Sertrahc's Folly!"—In theſe pieces were exhibited regular dramas, with muſic, dancing, and every other apparatus belonging to theatric repreſentations, except dreſs; *that* was conſidered as an incumbrance, and being a mere innovation on the dictates of nature, was totally laid aſide. We will not take upon us to ſay that any of thoſe pieces have been publiſhed; but we have been aſſured, that they contained every thing that was beſt calculated to ſhew human nature in its loweſt ſtate of depravity.

To private parties in this temple of proſtituted pleaſure, it often pleaſed the Serene Duke to invite the moſt noted courteſans of the city of Sirap! ſuch as Du The Michelot, and others of that ſtamp: but as they were well acquainted with his temper, which

* We hope the Britiſh Bon Ton Theatricals are not conducted in this manner.

was not to *throw pearls to ſwine*, they, in reſentment, always aſſumed an air of hypocritical modeſty, which ſoon diſguſted him; nor did he commit adultery with thoſe celebrated Phryne's above once or twice, though their viſits were frequent, as he had no idea of aſſumptive dignity, where the reality had no exiſtence: nor would they condeſcend to give a looſe to their unreſtrained licentiouſneſs, where they were to be rewarded with neither purſe nor perſon. In theſe moments of diſſatisfaction, when his grace met with ſuch diſappointments, the only time when he thought of his matrimonial engagements, he flew for relief to the arms of his chaſte ſpouſe, and with her conſoled himſelf for their impoſtures: nor would he have found conſolation even here, if he had not been certain that ſhe would coſt him nothing. What a calumny

But why will people pretend that his Serene Highneſs loved money! Was it not natural for a man of his rank, fortune, educa-

tion, and perſonal acompliſhments, to ſuppoſe that women far above thoſe whom he frequented, would think themſelves honoured by his careſſes; or could any ſum, given by a wealthy commoner, be put in competition with the dignity that muſt evidently reſult from the enjoyment of the perſon of ſuch a man to any woman whatſoever?

But, to examine the matter a little farther! what right had thoſe girls to expect any pecuniary gratuity from his moſt Serene Highneſs? were they not both kept, at the very ſame time, by men of the very firſt quality?

Du The was at this period the kept miſtreſs of the brother of our monarch, who ſupplied her ſo amply with every neceſſary, that ſhe herſelf uſed to expreſs his praiſes in the following flattering terms—"He is a ſylph who doats on me; this adorable inhabitant of air leaves not one wiſh of mine unſatisfied—in his arms I find ineffable

bliſs—Oh, would it may prove everlaſting!"

Michelot was in as little want of the bounty of the Duke of Sertrahc. She was then a penſioner at the public coſt; but under the name of the Prince of Eſibuos, who allowed her twenty-four thouſand livres a year for the expence of her table alone. Every debauchee, male and female, native and foreigner, had admittance to this actreſs's table: why then ſhould not the Duke of Sertrahc be as welcome as another? ſurely ſhe ſhould rather be proud, that he would honour her with his viſits.

Or, why ſhould ſhe affect more modeſty than many perſons of diſtinction of France, and other countries, who thought they gained additional dignity by being permitted to ſhare in the Prince's pleaſures at the Palais Royal? The honour of a courteſan conſiſts in having lovers of a ſuperior rank, and in plundering them with ſpeed and addreſs:—

that

—that of a petty, ſilly gentleman, is found in ruining himſelf, by coping with grandees.

Who will doubt that the Duke of Sertrahe could have ruined many gentlemen, without the ſmalleſt diſhonour?—and why ſhould he be ſuſpected of having profited of the inſtructions of Comus to better his fortune?—His own imagination could eaſily furniſh him with means of increaſing his immenſe revenues, without laying him under the neceſſity of recurring to means ſo baſe, as ſubject men of ordinary degree to the moſt infamous puniſhments.

One evening, his moſt Serene Highneſs took a fancy to a little ramble on foot with a young gentleman, one of his minions, to a certain coffee-houſe on the Boulevard du Temple: they were both dreſſed in old ſurtouts of a drab colour, pretty deeply impregnated with powder: the object of their excurſion was viſibly ſome new faces, in the

line of common frailty, who, by a happineſs of genius, might find out a new refinement in voluptuouſneſs: on their entrance, they diſcovered an athletic Iriſhman, ſitting between two filles de joie, who poſſeſſed an inviting countenance: however partial the Duke might have been, even at that time, to the Engliſh manners, he ſeemed to be but ſlightly acquainted with thoſe of the Iriſh: he therefore made a propoſal to his companion, to take the girls without ceremony from the Hibernian:—the latter no ſooner underſtood their drift, than he informed them, in very bad French, that they would find it more prudent to deſiſt:—they would however purſue the game; when the ſon of Ierne, feeling the inſult as if it had been a better cauſe, a ſcuffle enſued—the coffee-houſe was thrown into confuſion, the patrole entered; and the owner of the place formally complained of the intruders. The corporal attempting to ſecure the Duke, received a blow on the mouth, which ſo much provoked him and his party, that with the butt-ends of their

firelocks,

firelocks, they ſtruck at him; and, in their rage, broke a glaſs luſtre of conſiderable value. Overpowered at length, they were dragged before the commiſſary of the quarter, where all mouths were open in loud aſſeverations of their guilt. The Duke begged to be heard in his own defence, but was refuſed, and ordered immediately into confinement. He thought the ſentence unjuſt; but, on perceiving that the repreſentative of majeſty was inexorable, he was under the neceſſity of throwing open his ſhabby ſurtout, and of ſhowing the ſtar glittering upon his breaſt, bellowing out his title at the ſame time. This diſcovery produced an amazing alteration in the affair; thoſe who had been moſt forward in exclaiming againſt him, now ſneaked away; and the commiſſary himſelf, impreſſed with ſervile fear, begged forgiveneſs for what he confeſſed an error. The Hibernian, well ſatisfied at the ſatisfaction he had perſonally taken, wiſhed only to ſee the maſter of the coffee-houſe ſomewhat indemnified for his loſſes;—but the noble Prince poſitively refuſed

fuſed to give him any compenſation, and marched off in triumph.

The Iriſhman however, now found himſelf in a diſagreeable ſituation: having rejoined his nymphs, they reproached him bitterly for hindering them of ſo good a chance as that of the Duke's company; and, after curſing him heartily, left him to his own reflections. Had they known the Duke's *cuſtomary generoſity* to perſons of their claſs, how much more incenſed muſt they have been!

We now come to a circumſtance in the tranſactions of this prince, which has enabled all his enemies to accuſe him of the moſt ſordid avarice: but, upon a cloſe inveſtigation of the fact, his motive will be found to have ariſen from ſound policy, egregious morality, and a deep ſenſe of religion. For ſome time, he had been an eye-witneſs to the diſorders practiſed in the gardens of his palace, and ſaw with remorſe that the privilege of the place protected the vicious members from

from the law. Could a man of his known virtue tamely look on, when he had the power of redreſs in his own hands!—Long, however, did he pauſe, before he came to the juſt reſolve of ſtriking at the root of the evil; —for he well knew that the perſons who commonly frequented that place, had, by ſome means, obtained a very extenſive influence, and would not fail to ſpread the moſt injurious reports of his incentives to a ſtep ſo praiſeworthy.

On the other hand, many individuals who had houſes which looked into the gardens, muſt be conſiderable loſers by the alterations which he had projected; and this conſideration weighed a long while with him: but his virtuous ſoul at laſt overcame all the arguments that entered into competition with the intereſts (of his own private fortune, we are ſure it is not) of religion, and planned the converting the night-ſcenic garden into a large and convenient ſtreet for the benefit of the public.

Memo-

Memorials upon memorials, petitions upon petitions, were preſented to divert him from his purpoſe: but in vain—his heart, impenetrable to futile diſputation, reſiſted every ſolicitation; and the deſign was on the eve of being carried into execution, when the following poetic epiſtle was delivered into his hand. It is allowed, that the remembrance of former congeniality for a moment ſtaggered his reſolution;—but he ſoon overcame the weakneſs, and rejected the prayer.

Are we condemn'd, then, in our brighter days,
To meet deſtruction from thy foſt'ring hand?
Thy building, future wretchedneſs diſplays,
And ſports and love muſt fall at thy command.

This boaſted garden, quicken'd in our minds
Thy grandſire's royal virtues and his fame;
Oh curb that av'rice that your boſom binds,
And force us not to hate your once lov'd name.

Recal the raſh reſolve thy breaſt has form'd,
Here let us ſtill the midnight hour employ;
Think that theſe trees have oft beheld us ſtorm'd,
By thee, when prompted to the amorous joy.

Where can our charms henceforth a market find!
Hear, hear our wiſhes! grant our ardent pray'r!

The

The guſhing floods of tears our twinklers blind,
Let thy ſoft pity huſh the turgid care.

Beneath thoſe branching trees, myſterious love,
And more ſeducing Plutus crown'd each vow,
Both youth and age with us delight would prove,
And at our beauty's altar, trancing bow.

Should they be fell'd, what refuge muſt we meet!
Where, then, alas! for ſafety ſhall we fly?
Muſt we for lovers ply th' inſulting ſtreet,
And pant for fear of every police ſpy?

Safe from theſe harpies ever greedy claws,
Within thy garden every night we plied;
And brav'd all efforts of coercive laws,
And every ſenſe of danger laid aſide.

What then! have proſtitutes their champion loſt?
Wilt thou forſake us, wilt thou ſhun our charms?
Muſt we no longer thy protection boaſt?
Oh take us, ſave us, hide us, in thy arms!

Whene'er thou wilt, obedient to thy call,
Thy ſtrolling nymphs will ever eager fly;
Proteſt thy ſtrumpets, ſtanding leave the wall,
And on our panting boſoms hourly die.

How far inferior are the chaſteſt joys,
To thoſe which proſtitution can beſtow!
What though no mutual love our thoughts employs,
Diſſembled raptures have more charms for you.

In

In this manner did the beautiful ſtreet-walkers of the neighbouring purlieus, expreſs their grief at the projected downfal of the Palais Royal, and endeavour to avert the inconveniences that muſt ariſe to themſelves from that meaſure. Are we not well authoriſed in defending the character of the Duke of Sertrahc, and in ſaying that his moſt Serene Highneſs was neither vicious nor avaricious. That he was not vicious, is evident from his abſolute refuſal of complying with the above requiſition;—and his firmneſs in rejecting the entreaties of thoſe whoſe houſes ſurrounded the garden of the Palais Royal, prove equally that he was not tainted with avarice; whereas he ſacrificed the certain good of a few individuals to the great benefit that muſt accrue to the public in general from his projected improvement, and to his own family in particular. He began it.

But this operation, ſo eſſential to the mental ſatisfaction of the Duke of Sertrahc, was ſuſpended by operations of a much more ſeri-

ous

ous nature to the nation in general, and which called away his attention to objects of a much more glorious import.—The miniſters of the King of Great Britain, ever jealous of the growing proſperity of our happy country, erroneouſly imagined that our ſovereign ſent ſecret aid and aſſiſtance to the Colonies of America; and, without waiting for any proof of the facts, imprudently and precipitately gave orders to his Majeſty's ſea commanders to inſult and annoy the French flag as often as opportunity ſhould offer. Could a prince of ſuch undaunted bravery, who had given ſuch unequivocal proofs of love for his King and country as the Duke of Sertrahe, patiently behold ſo manifeſt an injuſtice? ſhould he tamely remain inactive, whilſt his ſkill in naval tactics and in military evolutions, could ſo amply contribute to the puniſhment of thoſe bold invaders of the Gallic immunities?—No, ſurely.

We appeal to every one, whether it would have been proper that a man of the Duke of

Sertrahc's fortune, a man ſo nearly allied to the Crown of Abo, and ſo dearly beloved by the whole nation, could, ſhould, or ought, with any degree of decency, to go in a private ſtation, and engage an enemy remarkable for their ferocity. Would not ſuch a conduct prove rather derogatory from his dignity, and even prejudicial to the cauſe he wiſhed to ſerve? Had it been in the land-ſervice, where, with ſword in hand, he could ruſh into the thickeſt of the fight, and hew down thouſands with his ſingle arm, his example *might* animate others to purſue his footſteps; and here his conduſt *muſt* prove deciſive: but at ſea, where the filthy cannon make ſuch a roar, that people cannot hear each other; where, if you attempt to get into the thickeſt of the enemy, where alone a prince can ſignalize himſelf, you muſt jump into the ſea, and die like a puppy: in ſuch a caſe we ſay, that his moſt Serene Highneſs could not go in a private ſtation.

What then could ſuit *him*, but the poſt, place,

place, or dignity of Lord High Admiral of Abo, which was at that time in the name of an almoſt debilitated old man; his father-in-law, too, who had ſcarcely ever ſeen ſalt water? Could any one blame the Duke for endeavouring to obtain a ſituation, in which he could do moſt eſſential ſervice? —and without which, what could he do? With a ſpirit of inimitable patriotiſm, he went to the King, and expoſed his pretenſions to him in the following modeſt harangue.

May it pleaſe your Majeſty,

At the ſame time that your Majeſty is ſolicitous to maintain that peace which is the foundation of the happineſs of your people, I ſecretly groaned at the inactivity of the nobility. The envy of a nation, evermore the enemy of your's, has kindled in the heart of every Aboman the deſire of ſupporting the dignity inſeparable from your crown. Heir to the Grand Admiral of your empire, it is not without regret, though free from every idea of jealouſy of your Majeſty's

choice, that I ſee any other than myſelf entruſted with the care of your deareſt intereſts. Reaſon alone has hitherto comforted me: I am not ignorant of the errors that have crept into the marine department; but, poſſeſſing no authority in that eſſential branch of national glory and defence, I humbly ſolicit your Majeſty's permiſſion to obtain my father-in-law's diſmiſſion, from that dignity, and your leave to entitle myſelf to it by my efforts and zeal to ſerve your Majeſty in the preſent war.

Was it poſſible for ſo *learned* a man as Silvo XVI. to preſerve his temper after ſo much eloquence had been poured in upon him? No,—he felt it—it tickled him; and he made the following anſwer.

"I *applaud* your emulation—exert your utmoſt efforts to merit the ſtation you aſpire at. If your father-in-law reſigns his poſt of Lord High Admiral in your favour, it is well:

well: but I certainly will uſe no compulſion whatſoever."

His moſt Serene Highneſs, who interpreted thoſe words as a tacit approbation of his claim, with his uſual modeſty proceeded to engage the Duke of Erveihtnep, to ſecond his ambitious views: he told him that—"his Majeſty was maſter of his poſt, and could diſpoſe of it as he liked—but that he would wait his orders."

The *warlike* Duke of Sertrahc did not clearly comprehend the equivocation of theſe two anſwers; but, fearful that buſineſs of ſuch a nature would take up too much time, and that he ſhould thereby loſe the opportunity of ſignalizing himſelf, he ſet off for Breſt with a grand retinue, where, with unwearied diligence, he at length learnt to diſtinguiſh the ſtem from the ſtern of a man of war; he could tell which was the ſtarboard and which the larboard tack; with ſeveral other marine terms and evolutions.

With all this learning, he embarked at laſt on board the ſhip called the St. Eſprit, a firſt rate; and, by the complaiſance of the other officers, was appointed commander of one third of the fleet, having under him the Count de Graſſe as aſſiſtant; and, as captain of his own ſhip, Mr. De la Motte Piquet, though he ranked as Admiral.

After having paraded ſome time, they came at length in ſight of the Britiſh fleet. In ſuch a ſituation, it was impoſſible to avoid an engagement, both being equally ardent for the glory and advantage to be gained;—but none more ſo, than the hero whoſe defence we have undertaken. Nay, ſo eager was he to diſplay his proweſs, that, long before any of the enemy's ſhips were within a reaſonable diſtance, he gave the ſignal to fire at them.

Some of his detractors are daring enough to ſay, that, as ſoon as the thunder of the cannon was heard—as ſoon as the clouds of ſmoke began

began to darken the air; as ſoon as he heard the bullets whiſtle by his ear—as ſoon as he ſaw ſome of his men beſpatter the deck with their mingled blood and brains--ſome of theſe detractors preſume to ſay, that when his moſt Serene Highneſs was ſenſible of all this, he loſt his ſerenity—his colour faded, his teeth chattered, his limbs tottered, his head wavered, and his whole frame was in an univerſal confuſion.

In this ſituation, Mr. De la Motte Piquet deſired permiſſion to give the word of command; but the heroic Duke, recovering from his trepidation, *would* convince the world that he was a brave man, and refuſed to give up the authority to any body—he gave orders to fire when there was ſcarcely a poſſibility of annoying the enemy—in the mean while, the broadſides poured in upon him ſo faſt, that his rigging being ſhattered, and the ſhip in very great danger of ſinking, if continued longer in the line, his moſt Serene Highneſs thought it proper to order a retreat, which

which was effected by the intervention of another large ſhip.

In this ſhattered condition, it would have been imprudent in the hero of theſe Memoirs to have returned to the engagement:—the French fleet, therefore, by the advice of the Duke, as ſome pretend, ſailed with all poſſible ſpeed for Breſt.

It is reported, by thoſe who wiſh to blacken his character, that before this memorable engagement, whilſt the fleet of Abo was in queſt of that of the enemy, the Duke, who had made ample proviſion for the purpoſe, amuſed himſelf in playing cards with the officers of his own ſhip, and that ſeveral of them loſt to him in perſon not only all their ready money, but conſiderable ſums on honour, which he afterwards ſeverely exacted: but if his Serene Highneſs *did* even paſs away ſome of his idle hours in that manner, can any reaſonable man cenſure him?—did he not ſhow, by his conduct in the fight as a-

bove

bove deſcribed, that his conſummate ſkill was ſuch as required no additional inſtruction, and that therefore he might with propriety paſs his time as ſhould be moſt pleaſing?—

Te deum was ſung at Selliaſrev; all the world was mad at Siſap: the whole nation was in an uproar--nothing but bells ringing, cannons firing, bombs burning, fools ſhouting, and--what, why ſhameleſs females rejoicing in every corner of the city--their patron was returned ſafe and unhurt; and they had yet ſome chance of ſeeing jolly days.

Every one in Selliaſrev wore a ſmiling countenance on the happy day of his return, except the King and the Queen. The King was jealous of the *glory* he had won; he was a Prince of the Blood, and his popularity *muſt* increaſe:--a terrible eyeſore!--the Queen knew he was conſcientious--that a woman already verſed in all the arcana of Cytherean joys

joys was his delight--he would not cuckold a man--he would not debauch a woman of virtue--No--not for the world!--Reptile--he did not desire the approbation of a woman of her taste--foh--the nasty fellow!

The Duke of Sertrahc, justly offended at the indifference of their Majesties to his most Serene person, after such eminent and signal services, left the court, and hastened to receive the assuredly cheerful and heartfelt congratulations and caresses of his virtuous consort:--she would unfeignedly rejoice in his success--he as little doubted of the sincere congratulations of the people of Sirap--he could *not* doubt of it:--a victory over an English fleet was a thing unheard of till that day in Abo. What, though the Duke of Sertrahc and his fellow-admirals, had not taken a single ship from the enemy, yet it was a complete victory--because they had not lost one.

Our hero was justly the idol of the people of

of Abo; but, until the ſecond of Auguſt, he never knew the full extent of his own conſequence;--his impatience to receive the homage due to his *vaſt* merit, induced him to order his poſtilions to drive as hard as they could; but when he came within a league of the city, what an alteration! the foaming ſteeds, proud of their honourable burden, were eager to get on, when they were retarded by the multitudes of men, women, and children, who came out to meet him: the affrighted atmoſphere fled to the moſt diſtant regions of empty ſpace, to avoid the reiterated ſhouts of applauſe that burſt forth from the unanimous crowd: a poor woman of weak nerves, was ſo ſtunned with it, that ſhe loſt her hearing--an old man, who had been deaf for many years, recovered his--So various and uncertain were the effects of theſe rejoicings.

Thoſe who had ſeen his moſt Serene Highneſs at his firſt approach, ran themſelves out of breath to get another view of his admired perſon

perſon at a more convenient place: he bowed with wonderful condeſcenſion to his friends: he advanced ſlowly, and with difficulty reached the Palais Royal, which was almoſt impenetrable even to him, ſo thick were the people aſſembled there, to congratulate his ſafe return. The very ſtair-caſe was hung with them--yet he reached his apartment.

But all theſe ſacrifices to the glory of the Duke, were nothing to the clouds of incenſe that were prepared for him at the Opera, to which he quickly repaired. Were it poſſible that ſhouts of applauſe could lift a heavy weight, there is not the ſmalleſt doubt but the Opera-houſe would have been unroofed, ſo long and loud were the acclamations of all ranks that attended there for the purpoſe:--the actors and actreſſes themſelves, forgetting the purpoſes for which they came upon the ſtage, raiſed their voices to their higheſt tones to expreſs their ſatisfaction at his Serene Highneſs's ſafe return.

Yet

Yet there wanted ſomething to render the feſtivity perfect; and this was ſubſtituted by the ingenuity of a wit, who, having procured an old ſuit of cloaths, ſtuffed it up with ſtraw and rags, to repreſent the Britiſh Admiral Keppel, which, having been dragged with farcical parade through all the walks of the garden of the Palais Royal, was at length plunged into a tub of water, provided for the purpoſe, and to load him, or rather it, with the more ignominy, being dragged from thence again, was kicked, cuffed, buffetted, and in the end torn to pieces, by the furious multitude.

Thouſands of ſongs and copies of verſes were bandied about, ſung to the praiſe of the Duke, who, conſcious that they were juſtly due to his extraordinary merit, would not give a ſingle ſhilling to the authors or propagators of them; until at laſt, tired of ſuch uninterrupted ſcenes of adulation, he fled for relief to his delightful temple, where, for a while, he forgot his laurels in the arms, in the geſ-

tures, in the manœuvres, in the diſtortions of his beloved and exulting, but abandoned, miſtreſſes.

We muſt now do the King the juſtice to own, that although he did not give the Duke of Sertrahc the reward he aſpired at, and which alone was adequate to his merit, yet, confident that he deſerved much at his hands, he appointed him Colonel General of his Huſſars and Light-cavalry.

It was ſome conſolation to the Duke, that, from his excellence in horſemanſhip, and other gymnaſtic exerciſes, this new dignity was in ſome ſort adapted to his inclination. Some even attribute to this event, the paſſion he ſoon after conceived for horſe-racing:--whilſt others will have it, that it ſprang from the effect which the Britiſh gunpowder had on him in the ſea fight already deſcribed.

Having once conceived the idea of introducing horſeracing into his native country, the

the Duke of Sertrahc thought it eſſentially neceſſary to learn all the myſteries of the art: but how was this to be done! theoretic knowledge would never ſuffice to anſwer ſo uſeful a purpoſe;—he therefore formed the project of ſtudying that ſcience in all its purity in the original ſchool.—But his foreſight ſuggeſted to him, that if he appeared as Duke of Sertrahc, he muſt pay a very high price for his education;—he therefore very prudently reſolved to change his name, and incognito to viſit the ſource of houynmhnſnical excellence.

A project of this kind was not eaſily put in execution. In Abo he had to combat the unconquerable affection of his tenderly loving kindred, the King and his family, who on no account would conſent to his expoſing his precious perſon among a people whoſe genius was too rough for ſo accompliſhed a prince: In England he had to apprehend the exceſſive admiration of a nation, which has ever ſhewn the higheſt reſpect for per-

ſonal courage and ſuperior talents, which would not fail of tiring and beſieging him, whoſe valour and conduct it had ſo lately paid for at ſo dear a rate, and experienced in ſo unequivocal a manner: beſides this, he had to apprehend the ever watchful and irreſiſtible enemy to rich ſportſmen, that ſpecies of gentry commonly known in England by the characteriſtic appellation of Black-Legs, who rejoice as much at the appearance of a foreigner of diſtinction on the turf, as they call it, as the proctors do at the introduction of a wealthy citizen into Doctor's Commons.

His Serene Highneſs, in conſequence of theſe juſt fears, aſſumed a diſguiſe; and taking a fictitious name, obtained a paſſport for himſelf and one faithful domeſtic, on whoſe penetration he could depend; and in this manner arrived in England, juſt as the racing ſeaſon opened in that kingdom. He attended at every meeting;---he examined every thing with a ſcrutinizing eye, and ventured ſome

ſmall

ſmall ſums with ſo much judgment, that he always won.

His attendant ſhared in all his obſervations; and, like himſelf, became an adept: here he alſo learned that eſſential branch of the ſcience, which is diſtinguiſhed by the expreſſion *hedging*, and, after having ſpent the ſeaſon much to his ſatisfaction, and emolument, returned to Sirap.

In a little time ſome Engliſh race-horſes, grooms, and jockeys, are imported into Abo:——the rage for ſporting ſoon ſpread; and ſeveral other princes and noblemen followed the laudable example. As his moſt Serene Highneſs was the beſt judge of the powers of each beaſt, and had likewiſe been inſtructed in another ſecret of the turf, which is, that of bribing a jockey, he always betted on the ſure ſide, and always won.

Such a line of conduct as this could not

fail of endearing the Duke of Sertrahc to the kingdom in general; but more eſpecially to the people of Sirap, who being unaccuſtomed to ſuch amuſements, raiſed his name to the ſkies. To render the attainment of them the more eaſy, the ſcene of theſe diverſions was fixed, by his Serene Highneſs's contrivance, at a place called the Plaine des Sablons, within a ſmall mile of the city.

Hither all ranks, ages, and ſexes, flocked to behold the unaccuſtomed ſpectacle; and had his Serene Highneſs been a man capable of taking pleaſure in the embraces of decent women, we have ſtrong reaſons to believe, that he could have revelled in the arms of citizen's wives and daughters without limitation or control---of this we will give only one inſtance, in tranſcribing a letter written to him by a very beautiful woman, at whoſe feet other Princes had ſighed in vain.

My Lord,

Had your Lordſhip no other merit but that which I have hitherto known you to poſſeſs, you certainly ſhould never receive this letter: but as you ſhew a peculiar diſpoſition to procure every ſpecies of lawful pleaſure and amuſement for the inhabitants of this city, I will make no ſcruple of treſpaſſing againſt the law, to convince your Lordſhip of my gratitude, in particular for the introduction of horſe-racing into this country; but *more* particularly, for making it ſo convenient to this city. I have ſome reaſon to hope that you will not reject an overture from a woman who has already refuſed the offers of ſome of your own rank, and treated with contempt very many men diſtinguiſhed for their birth, fortune, and perſonal merits. I muſt confeſs that ſuch a denial from your Lordſhip, would exceedingly ſurprize and mortify me, more for your own ſake, than for mine; as it would convince me of a report which I have hitherto disbelieved, that none but the vileſt women can give your

Lordſhip

Lordſhip pleaſure. I ſhall therefore expect you this evening, and flatter myſelf that I ſhall be able to convince you that there is more real ſatisfaction in the embraces of one woman of my kind, than in the polluted arms of the moſt ſhameleſs and abandoned of the ſex of

Your's, &c.

Strange to ſay, his moſt Serene Highneſs knew this lady perſonally; he had often acknowledged her charms, and perhaps, with a view of cloaking, as far as poſſible, the depravity of his taſte, had, with ſeeming rapture, expreſſed an ardent wiſh that ſhe would condeſcend to grant him the favour; yet now, that ſhe was willing to do ſo, now that ſhe had tranſcended the bounds which cuſtom has ſet to the conduct of all women, except the moſt profligate, by which it is preſcribed that they ſhall wait until the man makes the firſt advances; now that ſhe invites him of her own will, and unſolicited, to her yet unpolluted

polluted arms; he ſhrinks, and, weighing the matter in the balance of reaſon, perhaps of *religion*, he generouſly endeavours to hide her ſhame, and reſcue her from the pit to which he ſees her ruſhing headlong.—Can any thing be more conſcientious!

The lady, finding that no notice was taken of her letter, and enraged to madneſs at the diſappointment, reſolved upon revenge; and bethought her of the following ſcheme. She could talk the Engliſh very fluently, though not a native of that country; and having procured one of the attendants on the Ducheſs of Sertrahc to give her the earlieſt intimation of the intended movements of that Princeſs, it will ſoon appear, that her purpoſe was to excite jealouſy in the breaſt of that lady: but ſhe was little informed, that habit had long reconciled her to the infidelities of her lord, and that conſequently a mortifying defeat muſt be the reſult of her malicious endeavours.

Yet

Yet, ſo obſtinate was ſhe in her reſolution, that, hearing of a concert to be given in the garden of the Palais Royal, ſhe dreſſed herſelf after the faſhion of the Britiſh ladies, and repaired to the ſcene of action; where ſhe affected to follow the Duke from place to place, frequently pulling him by the ſleeve, and ſhewing him other marks of a long confirmed intimacy. His moſt Serene Highneſs, who had ſome expectation that ſuch a tranſaction on ſo public an occaſion, would redound to his honour, rather encouraged than attempted to ſuppreſs her forward boldneſs; nor did the amiable Ducheſs take any other notice of it, than by declaring that the Engliſh ladies had much more impudence than ſhe ever ſuſpected them to poſſeſs.

It is not improbable that this expreſſion touched forcibly upon the irritable nerve of his Serene Highneſs's ſenſitive part: the long habit in which he had been, of giving a determined preference to impudence in the ſex *that ſhould be ſoft*, induced him to hope that

that he might, with this lady, find that kind of amuſement he ſo much delighted in; and therefore he took the earlieſt opportunity of apologizing for his former neglect, and promiſed her that, if agreeable, he would wait on her the enſuing night.

She (in whoſe breaſt revenge had taken place of deſire) ſeized this opportunity of convincing him, that even a delay of compliance with a woman's invitation, is highly criminal in her eyes. She begged, however, that he would be tender of her reputation; that he would come at a very late hour of the night, and ſuffer himſelf to be received in the dark! Poor, innocent man! he had no ſuſpicion, and he complied.

The provoked woman, in the interim, provided one of the moſt hideous negros which the whole city could furniſh, and introduced her into her own bed. She alſo took care to aſſemble ſeveral of her neighbours, to whom ſhe purpoſed to expoſe the amorous

amorous gallant. The hour arrived—the lover was punctual and diſcreet: an Abigail guided him to the happy ſpot—and the virtuous Duke revels in the ſable arms of his enamorato, who, being conſtitutionally partial to the buſineſs *in hand*, was by no means baſhful in even requiring and provoking his utmoſt exertions in the amorous ſtrife. His moſt Serene Highneſs proteſted that he never taſted ſuch exquiſite delight in his whole life; ſhe hugged, ſhe preſſed, ſhe kiſſed, ſhe ſqueezed, and bit ſo energetically, that ſhe proved herſelf a willing partner in his Serene Highneſs's tranſports: but, behold, to what a pitch malice will ſometimes hurry rational creatures! he only began to feel the reality of his happineſs, when he was interrupted by a confuſed concert of inharmonious voices: —"Where is the villain?—has he effected his eſcape?—we are robbed, plundered, ruined for ever!" The door of the chamber is burſt open ſuddenly, and above twenty lights diſpel the ſilent gloom!

What

What a ſpectacle of horror for a Prince of the blood royal of Abo to find himſelf ſurprized in ſuch a ſituation!—not with a beauty—not with the wife of a citizen—not with the daughter of a mechanic—that were ſome conſolation--but with a filthy ſuperannuated, unwholeſome black.

Had a legion of infernals clapped their fiery torches to his poſteriors, he could not havejumped out of the bed with more alacrity, whilſt the treacherous ſyren, who had led him into the ſnare, laughed heartily at his miſtake, and gained to herſelf what it is evident ſhe did not deſerve, a character of chaſtity; and threw all the blame on the *innocent* Prince.

After a moment's recollection, he aſſembled all that was contemptuous in his whole frame; and throwing it into a ſingle look, he darted it at the treacherous fair, and dreſſed himſelf as faſt as poſſible; whilſt his African coadjutor earneſtly ſolicited him to

return to her yet greedy arms:--but he hurried away, and for ſome days conſoled himſelf with his ſtreet collected Thais's.

But the infection which had penetrated his veins, in the polluted embraces of the negro, ſoon made its appearance, with ſigns of unuſual malignity. No leſs than a conſtitution ſuch as his, could have reſiſted the cruel ravages of this dreadful diſorder :--the moſt ſkilful of the ſons of Eſculapius were called in; but for a long time they diſputed with each other the poſſibility of his recovery.

If the reader of theſe Memoirs will take the trouble of examining the regiſters of Abo, he will find that a daughter of the Ducheſs of Snaelro (the mother as we ſaid before of the Duke of Sertrahc) was married to the Duke of Nobruob; this lady, during her brother's illneſs, was ſo ſolicitous for him, that at ſeven o'clock every morning ſhe was at his bedſide, and ſcarcely ever quitted it until the night was far gone.

Malicious

Malicious wretch! why will you dare to inſinuate that the Ducheſs of Sertrahc was neglectful of her huſband all this while? No—ſhe was not:—by the conſtant aſſiduity of theſe two princeſſes, the Duke recovered of his illneſs, but was ſtill ſo weak, that he could not reſent the daring inſult offered to his ſiſter, the above-mentioned Ducheſs of Nobruob, which happened as follows.

At the time of her marriage with the Prince of Nobruob, ſhe had in her ſuite a certain lady of the name of Callinac, of whom the Duke her huſband became enamoured: the princely conſort was informed of a criminal connexion between them, and reprimanded the female culprit with uncommon moderation; but finding that ſhe ſtill perſiſted in her miſconduct, ſhe diſmiſſed her.

The impenitent ſinner, during this ſpecies of exile, attracted the notice of the Count of

Siotra; and as ſhe frequently attended him in his nocturnal excurſions, ſhe accompanied him to a maſqued Ball that was held at the opera houſe on a Shrove Tueſday. Here ſhe ſoon diſcovered that the Ducheſs of Nobruob was preſent; and, burning with an illicit flame of revenge, ſhe ſolicited and eaſily obtained of the almoſt inebriated Prince, his aid in inſulting that Princeſs, whom he pretended to miſtake for one of thoſe free booters who are the chief ſupporters of that kind of divertiſement.

Under the ſanction of this pretended error, the Count approached the Ducheſs; and, having grated her ears with thoſe illiberal diſcourſes which are adapted only for the loweſt claſs of women, he proceeded to more overt acts of indecency, by forcing his hand into her boſom, and even expoſing her nether extremities with profane and audacious violence.—Juſtly incenſed at ſuch unprovoked inſolence, the Princeſs, who was yet ignorant of the quality of the

the offender, forced off his maſk; and, to her utter aſtoniſhment, diſcovered him to be no other than the youngeſt brother of the reigning monarch of Abo.

To crown his inſolence, the giddy youth ſtruck her a violent blow on the cheek, and ſtrutted away; exulting in the mortification he had given to a Lady of diſtinction, and in the gratification of a ſhameleſs proſtitute.

Now the Duke of Sertrahc was yet in his convaleſcence, and conſequently unfit to undertake the vindication of this inſult on his ſiſter: beſides, can any reaſonable man ſay that he who was *only* a brother, ſhould take upon himſelf a cauſe which more nearly and immediately belonged to her huſband.—We will allow that the Duke of Nobruob behaved with proper ſpirit on the occaſion—though he had a ſufficient excuſe for declining to intermeddle in it, as the Ducheſs and he were at that time in a ſtate of ſeparation!

Be that as it may, the Count of Siotra and he met in the Bois de Boulogne; they ſtripped, they drew their ſwords; and for the ſpace of ſix—— minutes, made ſuch paſſes at each other, as muſt, had either of them poſſeſſed a ſcruple leſs of vigour, of courage, of ſkill, of vigilance, of cool determination, proved fatal to one; perhaps to both.—

During this never to be forgotten combat, the Duke of Sertrahc, who very probably was ignorant of the meeting in the wood, was engaged with a crowd of others, in diſpoſing every preparative for a horſe-race in the Plaine des Sablons; and on the ſame evening appeared at the opera with that air of ſatisfaction, which is always the moſt infallible index of conſcious rectitude.

We now come to a ſcene in which the philoſophic intrepidity of the Duke of Sertrahc was moſt conſpicuous; and this is no leſs than the breaking out of a moſt terrible fire in the opera, which threatened the Palais Royal,

Royal, and all the adjacent ſtreets, with an univerſal conflagration: and here the enemies of the Duke pretend to cenſure him, becauſe that, inſtead of attending to the preſervation of the houſes, inſtead of buſtling among thoſe who were employed in efforts to prevent the ſpreading of the flames, and encouraging them by his word, by his example, by his magnificence, to redouble their exertions, inſtead of acting thus generouſly, ſay his enemies, he was ſolely occupied in reſcuing from danger his own money, jewels, plate, and other moſt valuable effects.

Who will not ſee in this accuſation the moſt determined and indeed unreaſonable malice—could it be expected, could it be imagined, that the Duke of Sertrahc ſhould ſacrifice his own intereſt to that of a ſmall number of upſtart citizens—could the ruin and deſolation of tens of millions of ſuch wretches, with their wives, children, ſervants, and property, be put in competition with one moment's uneaſineſs of ſuch a prince—it would

would be the height of abſurdity to imagine ſuch a thing.—

But when he found his own Palace reſcued from the danger that threatened it, did he not retire calmly to the houſe of a merchant in the Rue St. Honoré, and there with chriſtian reſignation behold the ſeat of his former delight, his beloved opera houſe, reduced to aſhes, together with many other houſes? did he not even puſh his glorious indifference ſo far as to ſay, that ſo extenſive a fire was a magnificent ſight!—And how inſolent muſt that man have been, who cried out loud enough to be heard of his Serene Highneſs —" Yes, it would be a moſt exquiſite bon-fire indeed, if thou wert in the midſt of it!"

Why do theſe cavillers again pretend to condemn him for a practice ſo univerſal in theſe days, of eſtabliſhing a gaming-houſe in his Palace? Can any thing be more natural than that a Prince of the Blood ſhould endea-

endeavour to root out the vices of his country, which muſt be naturally dear to him; and by what better means could he reform the vice of gambling, than by fleecing thoſe who were ſilly enough to practiſe ſo deſtructive a habit! In this every body will allow him to have been praiſeworthy---and here he could extend his charitable exertions, as the officers of the police had no juriſdiction within his premiſſes: but his Serene Highneſs was cautious enough not to appear in it, though he was known to be the mainſpring that ſet the whole machine in motion, and pocketed the largeſt ſhare by far of the profits, to enable him the better to carry on the building of his ſumptuous ſtables, of his lodge at Mouſſeaux, and of his other architectural undertakings, that had already conſiderably thinned his treaſures, and rendered ſuch ſupplies neceſſary, notwithſtanding the ſtrict œconomy he obſerved in every department of his expences.

But the malice of ſome who had acceſs to the

the royal ear, ſtimulated the King to check what they formerly called a diſgrace to nobility; and his own father—O wonderful, almoſt incredible to relate—his own father was one of the firſt who teſtified his abhorrence of ſuch practices, and conſcientiouſly offered to have the abettors in this infamous ſcheme at his own ſole expence arreſted, flogged, burnt in the hand, and ſent to the gallies.

The imagination of his Serene Highneſs, ever fertile in reſources, ſoon found a ſubſtitute for that ſource of ungenerous wealth, in offering himſelf to be Grand Maſter of all the Lodges of Free-maſonry in France; and though the world could ſee no immediate proſpect of emolument in this dignity, the Duke of Sertrahc, whoſe penetration nothing could eſcape, had ſetled his plan before hand to make it fructiferous.

He was on a footing, not only of intimacy but friendſhip, with the Count of Siotra:—

in

in him he ſoon kindled an ardent deſire of becoming a member of that reſpectable ſociety; a larger ſum than ordinary is exacted from the unexperienced Prince, for his initiation into the myſteries; and, after he had proved himſelf worthy of the confidence of the general body, a ſecret and laudable ambition is artfully excited and fomented in his breaſt, of obtaining the Grand Maſterſhip, alread veſted in the Duke of Sertrahc. The Duke, who knew the impatient temper of the young Prince, ſhowed a degree of reluctance —painted the honours of that ſituation in ſuch flattering colours, that án overture is made of purchaſing his reſignation—the triſling ſum of twenty-four thouſand livres is agreed upon, and his moſt Serene Highneſs reſigns his office, with ſuperlative ſplendor, by a preſent of four thouſand livres to the charitable committee.

Were not the manners, the cuſtoms, the habits and eſtabliſhments of that part of Great Britain which is, for diſtinction's ſake, called Eng-

England, ſuperior in excellence to thoſe of any other in the world, it is very evident, even to a vulgar eye, that a man of ſuch infallible ſagacity as the Duke of Sertrahc would not adopt them: he differed in one point only from the common mode in England; and we will beg leave to offer it as our opinion, that therein he has acted judiciouſly; that is, that the Engliſh nobility and gentry are ſent to perform their travels at ſo early a period of life, that their unformed minds are yet incapable of juſt diſcrimination; and that therefore it frequently happens, that inſtead of a ſolid fund of uſeful knowledge, they import into their native country a vaſt addition of vices and follies, for which it had no ſort of occaſion, being ſupplied with a plentiful ſtock of her own growth and manufacture—whereas he undertook his tour at that time of his life when the ripened underſtanding can, like the ſenſible bee, extract honey even from the noxious plants.

He

He had already taſted every ſpecies of pleaſure that Sirap could afford—his appetite was palled—ſomething muſt be done to rouſe it--True, he could procure men and women to come to him from the different countries, where other pleaſures were to be found; but ſuch a meaſure would be attended with two inconveniences: the firſt was, that theſe people would not leave their native country without very valuable conſiderations, and a tolerable proſpect of future advantage: the other, and indeed the moſt eſſential, was that in ſo long a journey, ſubject to the viciſſitudes that often reſult from change of air and diet, theſe perſons might loſe a great deal of their original worth, and thus his moſt Serene Highneſs's ends be fruſtrated.

By perſonally viſiting the places in queſtion, he could have every *thing* in its utmoſt *purity*, and without adulteration; yet there was ſome difficulty in fixing upon the particular place in which he ſhould experience

that juſt admiration which was due to the dignity of his perſon, independent of his fortune and paſt exploits; in which, on one day, a vague report occaſions the moſt fulſome, exorbitant, and hyperbolical praiſes, which are followed, on the very next, by the moſt impudent, and unmerited cenſures.

All theſe things he would be perſonally a witneſs of, that he might make it a kind of rule for his future conduct; and as in Italy, under the appearace of deſpotiſm, there is the greateſt ſhare of real liberty of any country on earth, at leaſt at certain times of each year, he reſolved to begin his career there, and proceed afterwards as his better judgment ſhould direct him.

He very prudently took care, that the ſums which he deſtined for his tour, ſhould not interfere with his real revenues, or interrupt the projects which were to be carried on during his abſence: he was amply provided for the purpoſe

purpoſe by the betts he had won through the dexterity of Parkner and Adamſon, his two jockeys, and by the elaſticity of his two horſes, Jumper and Watchful.

Having thus formed the firſt plan of his intended rout, he announced his ſpeedy departure to his amiable Ducheſs, who uſed every effort that the tendereſt affection could ſuggeſt to divert him from his purpoſe; but the Prince was inflexible: and, after ſome tears ſhed, the fruit of conjugal ſolicitude, he extorted her tardy conſent. He found himſelf, however, conſiderably embarraſſed in his reflections as he travelled towards Selliaſrev; he juſtly apprehended that the King, who loved him *entirely*, would refuſe him leave to expoſe himſelf to the dangers which a nobleman ſo perſonally brave, and who entertained ſo nice a ſenſe of the honour of his King, country, and ſelf, muſt encounter among nations, where brutal courage is ſubſtituted for that delicacy which attends the moſt determined hatreds in Abo.

Having communicated his wiſh to his Majeſty, the King made him the following very polite and affectionate anſwer. "My ſon is healthy, and likely to live! Madam *may* be pregnant; the Count of Siotra has ſeveral Princes: you are at liberty to do as you pleaſe;--I cannot ſee that your ſtay in Abo will prove of public benefit; nor can I fear that your abſence will produce any public calamity: therefore go when you will, and return when you find it convenient."

Having take leave of the Count, he went to Sirap, where he ſpent a few days in ſeriouſly reflecting, that it is the moſt uncomfortable thing imaginable for a man of ſenſe to perform a long journey without being provided with one or more perſons to whom he may communicate his remarks, and from thoſe of his companion to draw ſuch inferences as may tend to elucidate his own obſervations, and to improve the world.

For this purpoſe he choſe two perſons, the fitteſt

fitteſt in the world for his aſſociates; the one being deſcended from the baſtard ſon of James the Second, once King of Great Britain, who was conſequently a wit by hereditary right: the other the Prince of Guiraine; who, by a judicious and timely bankruptcy, had ruined about ſix hundred families; not one of whom would ever have thought himſelf in danger of want, whilſt he had for his debtor ſo noble a prince; and who indeed could ſuſpect, that he would harbour ſo much baſeneſs, or that he could be guilty of it with impunity.

With theſe two companions did his Serene Highneſs ſet off for Italy: nor was there any thing in the parts of Abo through which they muſt neceſſarily paſs, ſo well worth their inſpection, as to induce them to ſtop an hour more than was barely ſufficient to take the uſual refreſhments and repoſe: nor did they meet any thing worthy of notice till they arrived at the Alps; where, by ſome

chance, their carriage was overſet, and the Duke was conſiderably bruiſed.

Fame, ever on the wing, ſoon carried to Sirap the happily falſe intelligence, that his Serene Highneſs had broken his thigh in his paſſage over the Alps.

Serious were the effects which this misfortune produced in the different breaſts of the inhabitants of Sirap, and of the kingdom in general: in ſome it excited the loudeſt lamentations; whilſt others gave the moſt indecent teſtimonies of malignant joy. His lady, indeed, had no occaſion to regret the loſs of her lord's *thigh*; ſhe was almoſt a ſtranger to its uſe in a domeſtic ſenſe: but then, on the other hand, it was an object of ſerious regret to the looſe kind of Cyprian females.

The Duke, however, proceeded gaily on his journey; he viſited the Academy of Painting at Rome: and, having had the honour of kiſſing the Pope's toe, he minutely exa-

examined into the various *methods* of the courtezans of every age and degree in that *once* famous metropolis of the world—for be it known to all thoſe whom it may concern, that the kiſſing the infallible toe of a Pope, though it may in the opinion of ſome obliterate the offence of old ſins, cannot take away the inclination to commit new ones: nor can it, above all others, ſmother thoſe delicious ſenſations which the ſight of the charms of the other ſex muſt excite in the breaſt of every man who has the leaſt ſpark of deſire remaining in his breaſt; and which are, in Italy, of a more enticing nature than in any other part of the world; for, beſides their perſonal attractions, the women of Italy have the additional advantage of the moſt inflammable deſires, which neceſſarily occaſion the moſt exquiſite refinement in the ſeveral modes of enhancing enjoyment.

Happy is it for the Duke of Sertrahc, that, in making experiments in this kind of ſcience,

ſcience in Italy, he was not preſented with the poiſonous gifts of the impure Venus; or that ſome woman, enraged at his refuſal of her proferred favours, did not bury a poignard in his breaſt, or mix unerring death in his food: a cuſtom but too frequent in that country.

In Modena, however, he met with an adventure which had nearly buried the world in mourning, the kingdom of Abo in ſorrow, the Royal Family in tears, and his own in madneſs and deſpair. We will give it genuine, as we have it from the beſt authority.

The Duke being informed that in this city dwelt a courtezan whoſe charms were divine, whoſe voice was enchanting, whoſe converſation was gay, ſprightly, witty, and whoſe *ſkill* in her profeſſion exceeded any thing that the moſt determined frail one could pretend to.

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In all his *experiments*, the Duke's curioſity was ſtill diſappointed; he could find nothing *new*, nothing that he had not been treated with before, a thouſand and a thouſand times; but, happily, from the character given to him of this Laïs, he flattered himſelf that, at length, he had diſcovered the Phenix of lubricity, and that he muſt enjoy the ſummit of human bliſs in the arms of this Circe.

Accompanied only with one gentleman, who knew his taſte, and was in full poſſeſſion of his confidence, early in the night he preſented himſelf in a plain habit, and unarmed, at the gate of the enchanted palace; and accoſting the Princeſs of the place, he harangued her as follows.

" Illuſtrious and renowned Princeſs! behold at your feet an humble Knight, who muſt expire in the bittereſt torments of regret, ſhould he have quitted Italy without having paid his homage to its moſt marvel-

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lous rarity; and without having left, on the *altar* of your divinity, a proof of his adoration, and an *ex dono*, which ſhall tranſmit to the lateſt poſterity the memory of the ſignal favours which he flatters himſelf he is to receive from your divinity, by his ardent adoration."

This diſcourſe inſtantly produced, in the breaſt of the courteſan, not admiration, not love, but a certain expectation that ſhe ſhould be able to *pleaſe* his moſt Serene Highneſs: ſhe received him in the moſt gracious manner; and, by the moſt tranſporting, the moſt fond careſſes, gave him a foretaſte of the exquiſitely delicate repaſt he was to be treated with, if any ſuch is to be found in Italy.

Be it as it may, the ſupper proved agreeable to the Duke; her beauty, her voice, the propriety of her accents, made a deep impreſſion on his heart: though he could not comprehend a word of the ſtanzas ſhe ſung

ſung in his praiſe: the intoxication of extatic pleaſure, joined to the influence of the heady wines of Italy, with which he had made too free, deprived his moſt Serene Highneſs of *all feeling*, but not till he had ſurrendered every ſuſceptible ſenſation: he was put to bed, where gentle ſleep repaired the injuries he had ſuſtained from inexpreſſible rapture. The poor Dutcheſs at Abo, even to pleaſe her lord, never would conſent to leave the beaten track.

An inconteſtable fact is, that, in the morning of this happy night, his Serene Highneſs roſe like a clouded ſun, harraſſed, and out of order, when, impatient to ſatisfy his companions and attendants of his ſafety, he offered to depart without ceremony, when the lady ſtopped him, ſaying, that beſides the expence attendant on the preceding night, and the pleaſure ſhe muſt have received from the company of ſo heroic a Prince, there remained yet to be paid a cuſtomary tribute to *herſelf*, and which, ſhe ſuppoſed, was never refuſed in

Abo,

Abo, more than in Modena, to thoſe ladies who make it their buſineſs to barter their charms, and who freely give them up the examination of the curious eye. "I ſuppoſe," added ſhe, "that in Sirap, as well as here, the ladies of pleaſure have their lovers, their caprices, their keepers, and their bullies! If they have not, we have, who are ever ready to execute our orders, whether to ſtrip, maim, or murder, thoſe who have incurred our diſpleaſure, or refuſe to pay us for our *trouble*."

His moſt Serene Highneſs was in no degree intimidated by this alarming oration; he could not believe that ſo fair a caſket could contain ſo murderous an intention: he thought he could appeaſe this furry by ſaying, with an enchanting ſmile, "Tell me, my love, have you not been amply recompenſed for your *trouble*, by receiving into your arms the Duke of Sertrahc, a Prince of Royal deſcent." "I care not who you are!" replied the diſreſpectful jade; "I have received you as I would your *coachman*: with

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us there is no difference made between Princes and footmen, cardinals and monks, magiſtrates and porters; all are equally welcome, and all are equally well treated; but all muſt pay, before they depart.

This inſult on dignity, provoked the Prince ſo much, that he changed colour, and was on the point of reproaching her with her degeneracy; when ſhe, who perceived the alteration in his countenance, without the aid of art magic, but by a ſimple clapping of her hands together, produced, from an adjoining cloſet, four ill-looking fellows, who, watching the twinkling of the charmer's eyes, waited only the ſmalleſt ſignal to diſpatch the moſt accompliſhed, the moſt generous, the braveſt, and beſt Prince that ever dignified his title.

Recovering, however, from his ſurprize, he told the lady that, having heard of ſuch ſcenes as were then acting by her, he had wiſhed to be himſelf a witneſs of the prudent caution of the Italian courtezans, in ſecuring payment

for the bliſs they beſtowed; that now he was ſatisfied, he begged to beſtow on her a liberal donation. This being of greater *magnitude* than any of his preceding ſacrifices, the lady teſtified her gratitude to her protectors, by drinking to and with them, at his moſt Serene Highneſs's expence; and without offering him the inſpiring cup, conducted him to the door, much wiſer than before, if not more virtuous.

The Italian doxies have no conſideration for Royal Highneſſes of Abo—they all follow the maxim of the Roman Emperor, and cry, Fie upon honour, unleſs it brings profit; it is even their motto.

Such an eſcape awakened all the patriotiſm his moſt Serene Highneſs was animated with: ſafety to his perſon was to be found in Abo alone, where he was dear to millions; he accordingly returned thither, and unfortunately perceived that his father continued in the vortex of debauchery as much as ever. It

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is the duty of a pious and good ſon to reſcue his parent from diſgrace of any kind: remonſtrances had already proved fruitleſs; the juſt authority of the law then, and clipping the wings, as we call it, of the extravagant father, was the only reſource now left to the feeling ſon.

Accordingly, having demanded a ſum of one hundred and fifty thouſand livres which the King always preſents to every Prince on his marriage, and being refuſed the payment by the father, he proſecuted him at law for the ſum ſo juſtly due. How ſilly was the plea of the father, that he had expended eight hundred thouſand livres on that occaſion! was it not his duty ſo to do? and did that authoriſe him to retain the King's gift?—No, certainly. It is true, that the exemplary puniſhment which might have reformed the Duke of Orleans, was prevented by the ill-timed generoſity of Madame of Mont—, who pawned her own jewels with the Duke of Sertrahc; but as ſoon as his father made

up and paid the money, he honeſtly reſtored the jewels.

About this time it was that his moſt Serene Highneſs took it into his head to make a ſecond voyage into England, to penetrate, more deeply than he had yet done, into the *conſtitution* of that country: but as, in his tour through Italy the diſſipation of his companions had robbed him of a great deal of the inſtruction which he muſt otherwiſe have reaped from his travels, he determined now to have for his aſſociate one of a more ſettled and deliberate caſt.

His judicious eye was on the watch a long while, until at laſt it fixed on the ſon of that immortal Buffon, whoſe natural hiſtory is and will be admired by all nations, in all future ages, for its extent and accuracy. This young man, not yet nineteen years old, had been lately married to a very beautiful young lady, whoſe lively and penetrating wit gave delight to all thoſe who approached her. It is not to be admired,

admired, that ſhe ſhould make a deep impreſſion on ſo ſuſceptible a heart as that of the Duke, nor will any man of reaſon impute to him, as a crime, the more than natural impulſe to perſonal ſafety, which urged him to prefer his own happineſs, and perhaps the preſervation of his life, to the trifling temporary injury he might do to the imaginary honour of an individual. We ſpeak the language of the world, and do not argue thus from our own conviction.

His moſt Serene Highneſs very juſtly imagined, that he would draw more ſolid advantages from the ſociety of this amiable woman, than could poſſibly reſult from that of her huſband; and in conſequence of this very judicious reflection, he tried all that long practice in the art of ſeduction could do to gain her conſent; he held forth to her imagination the various advantages which muſt accrue to herſelf from ſuch a trip, and *convinced* her, at laſt, that it was the moſt *prudent* meaſure ſhe could adopt.

Every neceſſary precaution being taken, his moſt Serene Highneſs procured a paſſport for himſelf and his attendants, including the lady under a fictitious name, and diſguiſed as a Page; nothing interrupted their career, and they arrived ſafe in London, where the Duke, having devoted ſufficient time to amorous dalliance, rouſed himſelf from his torpor, and once more became an active member of ſociety. Newmarket, Epſom, and the other race-courſes of England, ſaw him foremoſt in the ranks of Betters; and whether from intuition, inſpiration, admonition, or experience, ſo fortunate was he, that in the one ſeaſon he won immenſe ſums, and at laſt returned to Abo as well beloved as ever.

Juſtice compels us here to lay before our readers the fatal conſequence which reſulted to the unfortunate huſband of the lady juſt mentioned from her too, too precipitate elopement.

No

No ſooner did the unfortunate youth perceive that his beloved and affectionate partner was not returned at her uſual hour, than the moſt poignant alarms aſſaulted him on every ſide. Some fatal accident might have detained her; he was confident of her affection, and entertained no ſuſpicion that ſhe could forſake him. In the delirium of boding apprehenſion, late as it was in the night, he iſſued forth from his dwelling, to ſeek her where ſhe had ſaid ſhe would ſpend the night. That family was in the enjoyment of peaceful ſlumbers; he rapped at the door for a long time; he receives no anſwer from within; they could not conceive that an honeſt man ſhould be from his bed at that hour; he might be ſome ruffian; again he knocks, and from a caſement is demanded his name and buſineſs: "Has my wife been here this evening?" aſks the trembling youth. "We have not ſeen her this day." What can he now do? ſtill love pleads in his boſom: he might have miſtaken the name of the perſon ſhe intended to viſit; he therefore goes to another

another and another; but no one had ſeen her; "ſhe could not have deſigned to deceive me! to what purpoſe!" yet this abſence, her having been at no place where he knew her to be intimate, was exceedingly ſingular: yet he believed her honeſt, he could not ſuſpect her virtue: haraſſed with mental and corporal fatigue, he regains his home; he throws himſelf upon his bed, and ſtrives to gain a temporary relief from his anxiety by ſleep; but the care ſuſpending poppies fled from his eye-lids, and groans of anguiſh echoed through all the rooms: he riſes, walks in a ſtate of diſtraction round the apartment; and his reflections ſerve only to render his ſituation more deplorable. In vain does he endeavour, by any chain of reaſoning, to penetrate the myſterious gloom, that ſurrounds his underſtanding; the more he ſtrives to unravel the knotted clue, the more is he entangled in the mazes of conjecture, without one leading point to guide him to certainty. The horrors of darkneſs, the whiſtling winds, and dreary ſounds of diſtant bells, increaſe

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the gloom. The morning however arrives, and promiſes a more cheerful proſpect: without refreſhment, he repeats his reſearches, and by chance, unable to proceed farther, from the agitation of his ſpirits, he is forced into the ſhop of a commodious milliner, whom he knew not. Compaſſion for the pangs ſhe ſaw him endure, occaſioned her aſking the cauſe they ſprang from. "Alas, I have loſt my wife! and know not where to enquire for her." He is requeſted to deſcribe her: he does it ſo minutely, that the milliner can no longer doubt of her own ability to terminate his wanderings. "She is gone off to England with the Duke of Sertrahc this morning, in the diſguiſe of a Page." "Impoſſible!"—"Moſt certain! In this very houſe ſhe changed her attire." The Gorgon head of Meduſa could not have produced a more inſtantaneous effect than did this intelligence, when confirmed on the mind of the unfortunate Buffon. Reaſon, that attribute which in ſome ſort connects man

man to the Divinity, loſt her ſeat, and raving madneſs, incoherent delirium, aſſumed the empire of his brain. This afflicted family aſſemble around him; he knows them not; he accuſes every body he meets of having contributed to make him wretched. Every lenient method is tried to ſooth his tempeſtuous ſoul;—alas! all efforts are ineffectual! the elements of animated harmony are thrown into confuſion, and no human means can reſtore the ſyſtem to its original uniſon. Hope ſtill revives in the breaſts of his friends, and they flatter themſelves that medical ſkill may reſtore him; and for this end he is ſent to a madhouſe!

It cannot be ſuppoſed that, during his ſtay in England, a man, ſo much inclined to amorous dalliance as the Duke of Sertrahc, could remain long without new adventures. His intimate connexion with a perſon of the higheſt rank in this country of freedom —the ſovereign excepted—rendered his concurrence in amorous ſchemes abſolutely unavoid-

avoidable. We ſhall give one of the moſt remarkable.

The races of Epſom called together a concourſe of men and women of the firſt rank, faſhion, and fortune in the kingdom. It cannot be doubted but that ſuch a place was conſidered as a favourable ſpot for thoſe ládies, whoſe generous hearts are diſpoſed to mortgage their perſons for a reaſonable compenſation. Some go there in ſanguine expectation of meeting with a man of taſte and ſpirit, who will, without heſitation, corrode the boſom of an affectionate wife, and diminiſh the proviſion of a hopeful family, for the honour of poſſeſſing a female whoſe ſole motive, in yielding to his wiſhes, is to gratify her own vanity; and ſhe as profuſely ſupports an extravagant underſtrapper, whom ſhe keeps for her looſer hours.

Others, leſs ambitious, but no leſs intereſted, reſort thither for the ſole purpoſe of procuring a temporary relief to the cravings

of

of appetite, or to ſtop the inſonorous clamour of a tormenting hoſteſs, who with the moſt uncharitable epithets, and imprecations, haughtily demands the diſcharge of precarious lodging-money.

Others, in borrowed robes, ill-ſorted, and delivered with caution and timidity, ſeek the ſmall wages of perſonal hire, and from the ſcene of action haſten to the juniper-ſhop, ſurrounded by a needy crowd of the harpy ſiſterhood, who are willing to return the compliment as ſoon as opportunity may ſerve.

Of this laſt claſs his moſt Serene Highneſs ſelected one, by whoſe gait, mien, and countenance, he could eaſily judge that the pleaſure he moſt delighted in would be communicated without heſitation. Men and women, who practiſe this art, have a ſet of ſigns of convention, by which they inſtantly know each other, and without a word exchanged, or even a ſuſpicious approximation, can appoint

point times and places of meeting. Epſom foreſt, which was convenient, being fixed upon, the hero of the drama which was to enſue, turned his horſe's head, and moved towards the rendezvous, whilſt the pedeſtrian heroine, obſerving by his conduct that ſome myſtery was requiſite, formed a circle large enough to prevent the ſuſpicions of innumerable ſpectators from falling on her deſign.

Theſe precautions, however, proved inadequate to the purpoſe for which they were intended; and a youth, who was occaſionally favoured with admittance to the ſecret repoſitory of Venus's beſt delights, and ſhared in the plunder which the nimble fingered votary could purloin from her amorous ſolicitors; he whoſe watchful eye had caught every motion from firſt to laſt, dreading leaſt, by any ungenerous ſuggeſtion, the fair one ſhould be tempted to ſecrete a part of the booty, traced their evolutions with ſuch wary ſteps, that he reached a thicket which ſtood very

near the temporary altar of humble turf, which was devoted to the curſory ſacrifice.

The Prince alighted, and threw the reins of his bridle careleſsly on his left arm, until he had ſettled the preliminaries of that grand treaty which he was deſirous of entering into. With the ſkill of a Connoiſſeur, he examined all the outlets, forts, baſtions, quays, locks, and inlets of the harbour, into which he deſired to introduce his merchandize; and finding that all was ſafe, and that there were neither rocks, ſhoals, quickſands, nor hurricanes, that could annoy his veſſel, he pulled down his canvas, hoiſted his enſign, managed his plum, and prepared without farther delay to caſt his anchor.

One difficulty yet remained, which deferred the deciſion: it was trifling, yet required ſome management: his horſe muſt be diſpoſed of in ſuch a manner, that he ſhould be ſure of finding him again when neceſſary. To faſten him to a tree, ſeemed moſt plau-

plauſible; but, on recollection, it was judged unſafe, as the beaſt, being of high metal and ſkittiſh, might ſnap the reins, and effect an eſcape.

The Duke having at length ſeated himſelf on the graſs, in a convenient ſpot by the ſide of his charmer, he double twiſted the reins of the bridle about his ancle; and now thinking every thing ſecure, he proceeded to the *buſineſs* in *hand*. At firſt, the horſe ſeemed to look with ſimple ſurprize on the object before him: in a ſhort time, his aſtoniſhment was excited by new wonders; but when the electric fire derived from the colliſion of love and opportunity, ſtruck his amazed ſenſes, he became alarmed; terror enſued—it ſoon aroſe to affright: and at laſt, unable to bear the ſhock, he determined upon flying from his ſeemingly dangerous ſtation.

He was vigorous and determined; but, meeting with obſtructions, his reſolution became ungovernable; he pulled and pulled

and pulled away; his moſt Serene Highneſs, diſappointed of his pleaſure almoſt as ſoon as he had begun to taſte it in true perfection, was provoked to immoderate rage: yet prudence, which always intrudes, ſuggeſted intreaties; in vain did he endeavour to ſoothe the terrified ſteed; he ſtill moved on, in a retrograde direction: threats, though liberally beſtowed, proved equally ineffectual: his cloaths, which, for the greater facility of evolution, hung looſe, were ſo diſordered that, from the mid-thigh, to the breaſt bone and ſhoulder blades, he was as naked as his enamoured *Princeſs*, who now diſplayed all from the cincture to the knees.

Thus was he moſt barbarouſly dragged, by an inſenſible brute, from the verdant turf, where he expected to be tranced in bliſs, to the very place where he had given the ſignal for preparation? nor could the zealous efforts of thouſands who came to his relief, give the deſired ſuccour, before the Bucephalus arrived there.

Some were ungenerous enough to laugh heartily at this melancholy accident, though unattended with any other ill conſequences than a few excoriations; but when aſked the cauſe of their mirth, they anſwered that the ſituation he was in, plainly indicated that from which he had been reluctantly torn by his modeſt ſteed, and that when people bring themſelves into ſuch aukward predicaments, they muſt expect to be laughed at.

But this was not the only bad conſequence which reſulted from this unlucky buſineſs; for in a little time he diſcovered that his watch and purſe were gone, but whether by the hands of the lady, or in the courſe of his involuntary peregrination, is a matter of great uncertainty even to this day.

Certain it is, however, that the youth, who had curiouſly followed them into the foreſt, ſeeing by the proſtrate inactivity of the fair one, that his moſt Serene Highneſs had left his affair of honour undecided, he

took compaſſion on his old acquaintance, and cheerfully ſupplied thoſe deficiencies which the Duke's misfortune had occaſioned. After which, without returning to the race courſe, this *gentle* pair took an indirect road to London, where it is confidently reported, they gave evident marks of greater affluence than thoſe who knew them before could imagine they would ever attain to, without one of thoſe ſudden revolutions which the juſtices frequently take cognizance of.

Be that as it may, we can with pleaſure and certainty aſſure our readers, that his moſt Serene Highneſs never made any enquiry after them. Some maliciouſly inſinuate, that his forbearance proceeded from a leſs generous motive; that is, that he did not wiſh to encreaſe the laugh againſt himſelf.

We now come to that important period, when ſeveral millions of men, whoſe anceſtors, from the days of Charlemagne at leaſt, have yielded up, without murmuring, all their rights, as men, to the caprice of one; and,

and, the more they have been oppreſſed, ſhewed the greater affection for their oppreſſor. Each individual of this vaſt empire would ſooner have ſhed the laſt drop of blood in defence of his King, than he would have ventured a contuſion in that of his father, brother, wife, or family: but it will be obſerved, by the judicious reader of hiſtory, that this empire over the mind was gained in the days when literature was deſpiſed by all thoſe to whom it was neceſſary as a means of ſubſiſtence.

Some of the enemies of our ſon of Mars and of Venus, whom we have hitherto celebrated by the title of Duke of Sertrahc, but who, by the death of his father, became about this period Duke of Snaelro, have not heſitated to inſinuate, that he was the mainſpring on which the nation of Abo built its diſcontents and its ſubſequent operations: but is it to be ſuppoſed that a prince of ſo amiable a diſpoſition, ſo renowned for loyalty, and of ſo tender a conſcience, would ſo far

far endanger his dear *dear* ſoul, as to immix in ſuch intrigues as muſt endanger the ruin of either his king or his country? Some will even advance, but with equal abſurdity, that in order to render the reigning monarch odious to the people, he ſuggeſted the idea of aſſembling large bodies of troops near the capital; whilſt, at the ſame time, he rouſed and cheriſhed the fears and jealouſies of the States General and of the people of Sirap for their repreſentatives. Some will boldly aſſert, that he was the inſtigator of that furious tranſport which hurried the inhabitants of the metropolis to demoliſh the ſtate priſon, whilſt he privately encouraged the governor of that fortreſs to reſiſt courageouſly, and maintain the juſt prerogative of his Sovereign.

But, continue his calumniators, theſe things were done by his emiſſaries; and he very cautiouſly avoided appearing in them himſelf, as he was certain of reaping advantages, if the patriots ſucceeded in their wiſhes,

and

and ſkreened himſelf from the reſentment of the court, ſhould his ſchemes prove abortive.

Let us aſk theſe poiſoned enemies of the Duke, whether if he had been really as much concerned in thoſe tranſactions as they pretend, he would have refuſed the Preſidency of the National Aſſembly, which was unanimouſly voted to him? He loved the King, and would therefore accept of no place which could excite his uneaſineſs or apprehenſion: he was a friend to his country, and knew that he could be of more eſſential ſervice to it in a private ſtation, than if placed in ſo conſpicuous a point of view. His well known moderation, would then enable him to modify, to temper, and reſtrain the heats and animoſities, that might ariſe on either ſide, and he very prudently declined any oſtenſible dignity.

This conduct, however moderate, drew on him the ſuſpicions of both parties; and, to remove

remove thoſe doubts, he aſked and obtained leave to retire to England, where he remained an example of generoſity, wiſdom, hoſpitality, and patronage to literary merit, until he was informed that the malice of a few had procured an impeachment againſt him before the aſſembly of the nation.

Conſcious of his innocence, he flew on the wings of alacrity to the place of trial; he confronted, he confuted, he confounded, his detractors, by the moſt manly, the moſt artleſs and indiſputable defence, that ever was known in any age or country; he was acquitted of every charge, and regained the confidence of all parties.

From a late propoſal made in the aſſembly, it is unjuſtly inferred that he ſtill continues his intrigues; the propoſal alluded to is that of dethroning the preſent King, and of appointing his moſt Serene Highneſs Regent; at leaſt till the Dauphin is of age to govern; but it will appear evident to every candid reader,

reader, that this motion was made without his privity, and that his own moſt intimate friends were the perſons who ſtrenuouſly oppoſed it—certainly by his inſtruction, or at leaſt from their perfect knowledge of his ſentiments of loyalty to his dear couſin, the King, his affectionate reſpect for the good Queen, and his good will towards the nation in general.

We ſhall now, by way of concluſion, give a ſummary of all the charges which have been brought againſt his moſt Serene Highneſs, from his firſt entrance into life, to the preſent time, the better to enable thoſe who, like us, eſteem virtue wherever it is found, and whoſe charitable breaſts are willing to make allowances for the weakneſs of human nature, and who will undoubtedly form a more indulgent opinion than a ſet of prejudiced perſons, who are incapable of penetrating into the motives of his actions, and who conſequently may be led to miſconſtrue virtues into vices, and to repreſent the re-

ſult

ſult of long premeditation as the folly of precipitate inconſideration.

The only fault in which we cannot juſtify him is, that libertiniſm, which he may be ſuppoſed to have carried beyond the bounds of proper decorum. We confeſs that, for his exceſſes in this way, he can plead the examples of the greateſt emperors of ancient Rome, and eſpecially of a puiſſant monarch, from whom he is lineally deſcended. He has not indeed yet attained to that pitch of human glory which they had to offer in excuſe for their weakneſſes; yet his conduct in the battle of Uſhant ſhows ſuch a diſpoſition in him to heroiſm, that a grateful people may very well wink at his trifling irregularities; eſpecially thoſe which relate to the female ſex.

Let us now ſee if the other crimes alledged to him are better founded.—Firſt, he is charged with being a bad huſband.—What cauſe is there for this accuſation?—

far

ſar from having it in their power to make good this charge, his detractors muſt acknowledge that there are a thouſand reaſons for believing the contrary: his conſort, his virtuous ſpouſe, whom he acknowledges to poſſeſs more attractions than all the other women he ever was connected with, ſaps the very foundation of the bad opinion his enemies would inculcate of him.—Has ſhe been ever heard to complain of his amours with other women? and, if ſhe thought herſelf aggrieved, is it probable that ſhe would not complain?

In the next place, he is accuſed of being a bad father.—Another moſt iniquitous calumny! What can be more tender, more attentive, more gentle, than the conduct of this amiable prince to his children! How frequent are the opportunities which the public in general have of ſeeing his Serene Highneſs apply himſelf with delight and aſſiduity in playing with and amuſing his children! He can meet with no reproach

on their account ſurely, except that of having entruſted their education and inſtruction to ignorant perſons, incapable of ſuch an employment: but could it be expected that he ſhould condeſcend to examine all their tutors, governors, and governeſſes perſonally?

It is ſaid that he is an ambitious and ungrateful ſon-in-law—in his ſolicitations for the poſt of Lord High Admiral of Abo. We can ſee neither ingratitude nor ambition: that important truſt was in the hands of a man, diſqualified by his age and ignorance, from conducting it in a proper manner. Was it not therefore a ſervice intended to the king and nation, to attempt to reſcue it from him, and to place it in the hands of one who, if not perfectly ſkilled in the duties of the office, was yet willing to expoſe his life in the acquiſition of the neceſſary knowledge?

How ill grounded is the malicious report

port that he occaſioned the death of his brother-in-law? Truth informs us, that an immoderate uſe of illicit and degrading pleaſures, brought on his untimely end.

He is an ungrateful cowardly brother! cry the ſame malignant calumniators, becauſe he did not come forward in the quarrel of the Ducheſs of Nobruob.—This we have already proved to be built on a very ſandy foundation.

An encourager of gambling, and keeper of gaming houſes, continue they: can any man be juſtly blamed for acting according to the faſhion? It is very well known that if a man of his conſequence refuſed his countenance to the reigning mode, he would be laughed at, and hooted by the whole court; and what can be more mortifying to a generous mind!

He is an undertaker of buildings! they exclaim. Silly babblers! did he not get

them all done at his own expence?--did he make a jobb of them? Beſides, though building is called a folly, we have never heard it named a crime.

A buckle merchant, a paltry pedlar! adds the hue and cry againſt the poor Duke. But who can pretend to be ignorant of the great diſcountenance which commerce had met with, until that time, and even then, in Abo: yet all the world will acknowledge the reſpectable figure which England and Holland make in the political ſcale of Europe; and who will attribute their conſequence to any other ſource than their extenſive commerce? From thence they draw thoſe ſources of wealth which enables them to maintain the balance of power in all parts of the earth; from thence they draw thoſe intrepid ſailors, who have maintained, againſt complicated enemies, the honour of their flags. Who then can blame the Duke, a prince of the Blood Royal of Abo, intimately acquainted with the politics of all nations, and ardently deſirous

desirous of promoting the welfare of that country to which he owed his birth, for endeavouring to promote, by his own example, that commerce which alone he well knew could capacitate the people to pay the enormous taxes, which the intrigues of some, the extravagance of others, and the urgencies of the state, rendered necessary.

He is, finally, charged by his inveterate enemies—and inveterate they must be indeed, or they never would bring such charges—with being an infamous miser, devoured with an insatiable thirst of gain. But the miser, as is well known, exerts all his efforts to swell his stores for the base and fruitless pleasure of amassing, and then viewing his increasing stores.—Far from him is the generous idea of employing any part of his ill got wealth in any useful or patriotic purpose. No body is to gain by him during his life. It is not so with our noble Duke; his innumerable buildings, the exhausted state of his finances, the necessity he has

has been under of raiſing a large ſum by way of life-rents, will clear him of every ſuſpicion of that kind in the eyes of every man, whom an unjuſt and illiberal prejudice has not blinded.

FINIS.